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SOURCE: Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 27, 1949.

POSTWAR RECOVERY OF UKRAINIAN MEDICAL FACILITIES NEARLY COMPLETED

At a recent session of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health various Ukrainian doctors and health officials submitted reports on the state of health in their areas. All of the reports indicated that cooperation between the Ministry of Health Ukrainian SSR and the Party organizations has practically eliminated the consequences of the recent war. The German marauders destroyed more than 16,000 health establishments. By the end of 1948 Ukrainians had more hospital beds than before the war. One of the most outstanding facts postwar recovery has been the phenomenal rise in the number of doctors. At the beginning of 1949 there were 20 percent more doctors than there were in 1940. Much has been accomplished by unifying hospitals and polyclinics. About 94 percent of the hospitals and 60 percent of the polyclinics have been unified. Almost all the rayon centers have organized special aid services.

It is difficult to ignore the accomplishments of 75 rural tuberculosis stations. Particular efforts have been made to improve the aid available to workers in metallurgy plants, iron foundries, coke-chemical plants, manganese factories, and others. Work days lost due to illness have been cut 20 to 25 percent. Unfortunately, however, the picture is not so bright for the coal miners and much time is still being lost.

The consumption of medical preparations has also increased. In 1940 about 15 million prescriptions were filled while in 1948 there were some 23 million.

Much remains to be done. In many of the cities, such as Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Khar'kov, and others, there is a serious shortage of hospital beds. Some of the other large cities have not carried out the hospital and polyclinic unification program, and many sections of the Ukrainian SSR have poor sanitation and anti-epidemiological organizations. An attempt is being made to improve the latter, but many of the malaria antiepidemiological stations are still manned by middle medical personnel, do not have proper laboratory equipment, and do not have programs for examining mosquito breeding places. It goes without saying that malaria takes a heavy toll in life.

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The Board of the Ministry of Health recommended a comprehensive training program for the various medical personnel of medical organizations in the Republic. The Board noted that more than a third of the "scientific" personnel of the Chair of Health, Ukrainian SSR have no doctor's degree. Moreover, there does not appear to be any program for obtaining candidates and aspirants for higher scientific degrees. The Board charged Medvedev, Minister of Health Ukrainian SSR, with the task of submitting within one month's time a plan for reorganizing the operation of rural units for ambulatory patients. The reorganization is to be completed by 1952. He was also charged with the duty of correcting the various shortcomings of the present administration in the very near future, and with drawing up a definite plan whereby Ukrainian health services could plan future development.

As an added incentive for getting all this done, the Board has ordered the editorial staff of Meditsinskiy Rabotnik to publish periodic accounts showing the progress being made by Medvedev in this reorganization and improvement program.

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